



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway
Chairman of the Board

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CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON STATE OF THE COUNTY

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement in response to County Executive Scott Walker's State of the County address this morning:

"Until today, the County Executive has refused to seek stimulus funding, but now he is outlining ways to spend stimulus funds. His ideas for tax relief are unrealistic, are unlikely to get enough traction at the state level, and do not address our unemployment problem. We need to do everything we can to put our residents back to work. That's what true economic stimulus is all about. Despite the County Executive's claims, there is no historical evidence that the proposals outlined this morning actually create jobs. I agree that our residents also need tax relief. We have a much more realistic plan here at the County Board. Our plan provides major property tax relief; secures dedicated funding for mass transit, parks, recreation, culture and emergency medical services; and puts people back to work on projects that provide lasting value to our residents. Milwaukee County uses public and private sector employees to get these jobs done.

"That's why I have asked Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle to include in his budget the authority for Milwaukee County to provide this dedicated funding and property tax relief through a one-percent sales tax, which was approved by a majority of Milwaukee County voters in November. Because a significant portion of Milwaukee County's sales tax collection is paid by those who do not pay property taxes, we can reduce the burden on many County residents.

"There are a number of projects in Milwaukee County that need attention in the coming years, including upgrading our transit system, making our buildings more energy efficient, and maintaining our roads, bridges and parkways. Stabilizing funding to preserve and expand mass transit will help people get to jobs, which is more crucial than ever before. Rather than turning down stimulus funds and forcing County residents to face the full burden of these costs without any relief, it is responsible to seek outside funding to cover 80% or more of these upcoming projects. We must do everything we can to reduce the burden on property tax payers. They expect a return on the federal and state taxes they pay. Accepting stimulus funds is a great way to reduce their local tax burden and put our residents back to work. A suspension of the sales tax will not meet those goals."